

WELSHPOOL HIGH SCHOOL



GOVERNORS' REPORT TO PARENTS

**FOR ACADEMIC YEAR
2020-2021**

Message from the Chair of Governors

For the past 12 months the on-going pandemic has continued to have a significant impact on schools and families across Wales. It has challenged our routine and created a new normal. During this period, we saw the implementation of new rules on how education is to be delivered face to face. We also tackled the challenges of social distancing and self-isolation of both pupils and staff. Along with the pressures this creates for many families.

Once again, the school has worked diligently with their preventative measures whilst transitioning to face-to-face education for your children. Through this work, they have managed to keep the levels of the virus at a relatively low level compared to other establishments. The governors will continue to support the school in the challenging terms ahead whilst monitoring delivery.

School intake continues in line with national expectations, with a slight reduction year on year. However, Years 12 & 13 pupil numbers continue to be strong, with a good range of subject options that provide a strong curriculum and experience for this group. The addition of the BTEC level 3 Sports Coaching and A Level Photography have been a fantastic, and popular development for the school.

Powys schools transformation continues to take shape and the new strategy is expected to last until 2030. With the focus on four main areas;

Improve learner entitlement and experience

Improve learner entitlement and experience for post 16 learners

Improve access to Welsh medium provision across all key stages

Improve provision for learners with special educational needs/ALN

I feel that the school is currently doing exceptionally well on three of these areas and is currently working hard to improve its Welsh provision within current constraints.

Finally, the governance of the school has seen significant change in 2020-21. As you may know Mr Toal (Head Teacher) retired, Dr D Rogers (Chair of Governors) and several members retired from the Board of Governors. Recently we have appointed several new governors and are now in a position of considerable strength to take the school forward in the recruitment of the new Headteacher and Deputy Head Teacher.

THE GOVERNING BODY

Who we are:

[Term of Office expiry dates are shown after each name]

LEA Governors:

CLlr Amanda Jenner – 26.09.23
CLlr Brendan McWhinnie – 04.05.25
CLlr Graham Breeze – 26.07.25
CLlr Yvonne Naylor – 23/09/25
Vacant

Parent Governors:

Mrs Catherine Davies – 06.10.24
Mrs Claire Seddon – 13.09.25
Mrs Sarah Bowyer – 13.09.25
Mrs Catherine Evans – 13.09.25
Mrs Sarah Dillon – 24.02.25
Mr Jeff Johnson – 16.11.24

Community Governors:

Mrs Suzi Harkness – 30.01.24
Mrs Gemma Griffiths – 23/09/25
CLlr Alison Davies – 28.11.22
Rev. Adam Pawley – 23/09/25
Dr Geoffrey Lanagan – 23/09/25

Teacher Governors:

Mr Aled Humphreys – 01.09.24
Mr Rob Pengelly – 05.07.22

Staff Governor:

Mrs Caroline Jones – 01.04.24

Student Governor:

Shared with Student Council members

Acting Headteacher:

Mr Joshua Kinsey

The full Governing Body meets at least once every half term and subsequently through a series of committees.

The Chair of Governors, Mr Jeff Johnson, can be contacted via the school (Tel: 01938 552014) as can the Clerk to the Governors, Mrs Helen Muir.

Parent Governors are elected by other parents.

Teacher Governors are elected by teaching staff at the school.

Staff Governors are elected by non-teaching staff at the school.

Community Governors are elected by the Governing Body.

LEA Governors are elected by the Local Authority.

Financial Statement 2020/21

Income

LEA Budget	£3,929,344
Statemented	£ 56,083
School meals adjustment	£ -
EOTAS	£ -
W.G. Grants	£ 182,398
Other Grants & Income	£ 290,724

Expenditure

Staffing	£3,715,226
Curriculum	£ 6,312
Premises	£ 245,611
Operational	£ 309,852
Catering Service	£ 4,121

TOTAL **£ 4,458,549**

TOTAL **£4,281,122**

Net Surplus / (Deficit) Brought Forward	£ (728,217)
In Year Underspend	£ 177,427
Reserve / (Deficit) Carried Forward	£ (550,790)

The Welsh Government requires that in the Governors' Report to Parents information should include the measures schools have in place to improve school attendance. Please see below details which show approaches introduced in Welshpool High School to encourage students to obtain good attendance:

- Every term certificates are given to students who have 98% and above attendance.
- Every three weeks form tutors are given whole school attendance figures.
- At the end of the academic year a trip is organised for the best attendance form in every year group.
- Every student who obtains 98% or above attendance in an academic year is entered into a draw and the winner receives an iPad.

These approaches were introduced in addition to well-established weekly monitoring with the Attendance Clerk, the Educational Welfare Officer and relevant Heads of Year.

Due to the impact of COVID, schools are not currently required to report on their attendance figures.

School Leaver Destinations

This information is available in the School Prospectus, which can be accessed via the school website.

Links with the Community

Work placements

Links with local businesses and organisations through our weekly work placement programme continues to be successful. A small number of students in key stage 4 attend a work placement throughout the week. As always, we are extremely grateful to the employers within our community who offer this support to some of our students.

Careers

During the summer term, Wynne Construction delivered a webinar to some of our key stage 4 students in the Theatre. Employees from Wynne Construction talked about their career pathway and progression. Students found the webinar useful in terms of motivation and inspirational.

The school continues to deliver a full range of careers and guidance provision, and engages with Careers Wales.

PE

In the summer term a past student was appointed as the Rugby and Community Wellbeing Officer for Welshpool. Huw Williams will be working with our students during lesson time and extra-curricular activities.

PSE

PSE continues to be delivered by form tutors in school.

Our local police liaison officer came into school during the summer term to deliver a variety of workshops to students in all year groups.

Art

Nancy Clapton, Year 9 won a design competition with local company Morlands, to design a poster for their environmental campaign to encourage people to be more energy efficient. Nancy won a £50 Amazon voucher and her poster is being printed to be displayed by the company and promoted on 'My Welshpool'.

Student Council

Our Student Council remains a dedicated and focused group of students who discuss ideas to continue to improve the school experience and environment for all involved. Unfortunately, the final phases of plans to reduce the schools carbon footprint have been hampered by the lockdown due to COVID-19. We remain optimistic that once we become accustomed to the new ways of working we will be able to resume the work across the whole school.

Provision for Students to Participate In Sport

Curriculum

- Invasion games – football, rugby, basketball, netball, hockey
- Net games – badminton, volleyball, table tennis
- Striking games – indoor bowls
- Indoor athletics, cross country
- Health related fitness – circuits, use of leisure centre facilities including the fitness suite and spinning
- Level 3 Community Sports Leader Award [CSLA] – AS students – opportunity to gain CSLA Award in Year 12
- Outdoor education – to include orienteering and problem solving
- Individual Sports Day's for Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, and Year 10

Extra-Curricular - (Covid had a big impact on extra-curricular, sports fixtures and community links during 2020-21)

- Lunchtime clubs for football and netball
- Powys schools golf tournament

Policy Review

Schools are required to have a large number of policies in place. These policies are reviewed regularly and all members of the governing body are invited to attend these meetings.

Policies reviewed in 2020/21 were:

- Careers Education
- Data Protection
- Anti-Bullying
- Pupil Discipline
- Freedom of Information
- Sex Education
- Transition Plans
- Additional Learning Needs
- Complaints Procedure
- Child Protection & Safeguarding
- Inclement Weather
- Attendance
- Equal Opportunities
- E-safety
- Food and Fitness
- Substance Misuse
- Sustainable Development
- Whistleblowing
- Staff Disciplinary
- Staff Capability
- Staff Grievance
- Charging and Remissions
- Pay
- Governors' Allowance
- Health & Safety
- Curriculum
- Collective Worship
- Performance Management
- Unacceptable Actions by Complainants
- Vexatious Complaints
- Lockdown
- Debt Recovery
- Redundancy

Current versions of policies of interest to parents are all posted to the school website, under Documents.

Term Dates - 2021/2022 & 2022/2023

2021/2022

Autumn Term 2021	Non-Pupil Days	Number of School Days
Thursday 2 nd September to Friday 22 nd October	Wednesday 1 st September	36
Half Term – Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October		
Monday 1 st November to Wednesday 22 nd December		38
Spring Term 2022	Non-Pupil Days	Number of School Days
Wednesday 5 th January to Friday 18 th February	Tuesday 4 th January	29
Half Term – Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February		
Monday 28 th February to Thursday 7 th April	Friday 8 th April	34
SummerTerm 2022	Non-Pupil Days	Number of School Days
Tuesday 26 th April to Friday 27 th May	Monday 25 th April	23
Half Term – Monday 30th May to Friday 3rd June		
Monday 6 th June to Thursday 14 th July	Friday 15 th June	30

2022/2023

Autumn Term 2022	Non-Pupil Days	Number of School Days
Monday 5 th September to Friday 28 th October	Thursday 1 st September Friday 2 nd September	40
Half Term – Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November		
Monday 7 th November to Wednesday 21 st December		33
Spring Term 2023	Non-Pupil Days	Number of School Days
Monday 9 th January to Friday 17 th February		30
Half Term – Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February		
Monday 27 th February to Thursday 30 th March	Friday 31 st March	24
Summer Term 2023	Non-Pupil Days	Number of School Days
Tuesday 18 th April to Friday 26 th May	Monday 17 th April	28
Half Term – Monday 29th May to Friday 2nd June		
Monday 5 th June to Friday 21 st July	Monday 24 th July	35

School Prospectus

Our new prospectus is available to download on the school website, as is our 6th Form prospectus. A limited number of hard copies will be available in the front office.

Curriculum & Educational Provision

The School provides an effective curriculum which meets the needs of the pupils.

In Key Stage 3, all National Curriculum subjects are delivered to pupils, with the addition of Drama and statutory Religious Education. The collaboration with partner primary schools to ensure consistency in curriculum provision continues to be effective. Appropriate intervention is established to support the development of Literacy and Numeracy skills through such initiatives as intervention sessions and the reading behaviours strategy. The curriculum is arranged to ensure that more able pupils are stretched to meet their potential and that more vulnerable pupils are supported through the Department for Learning Support and quality first wave teaching. The Literacy and Numeracy Framework is an integral part of provision across the curriculum and the implementation of the Digital Competency Framework continues to progress.

Preparation for the implementation of the new curriculum for Wales continues. The Policy and Curriculum Committee monitors these developments.

In Key Stage 4, the school offers a good range of general and vocational courses, including classroom and offsite provision. All of the core subjects are covered comprehensively, with all pupils following the Welsh BaccaLaureate course, mostly at National (Level 2) level. In addition, most pupils complete the full course GCSE in Welsh as a 2nd Language. The school is successful in ensuring that pupils are guided effectively in making choices of study for optional subjects, and the school continues to meet the requirements of the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure.

In the Sixth Form, a range of general and vocational courses are offered, and this offer is broadened through effective collaboration with our partners in the North Powys Consortium. All of the facilitating subjects preferred by the Russell Group of Universities are available in the offer.

Considerable transformation is underway at a county wide level, with strategic and operational management boards being established to commission and procure the curriculum offer across Powys.

Learning Support Provision

Following the retirement of Mrs Carolyn Evans, the new ALNCo is Mrs Joanne Baines. Joanne has worked in the Department for Learning Support as an SEN mathematics teacher since 2011, and has recently completed her MA Education: Leadership, Degree. Mrs Baines

is currently working towards gaining a Diploma in Trauma and Mental Health–Informed Schools and Communities; Practitioner Status.

Mrs Baines is supported in the department by Mrs Sabrina Jones and nine Teaching Assistants.

The new school year has presented a number of challenges due to the Covid pandemic, but the department is coping well with the role of supporting children who have not been able to access the mainstream for a variety of reasons.

ALN pupils, some with complex needs, are supported successfully both educationally and emotionally. The Teaching Assistants remain diligent and determined in making sure they deliver high quality, engaging activities to ensure that the best outcomes are achieved. The pupils with ALN who attend the mainstream contact groups are also supported by Teaching Assistants where possible.

Mrs Baines, Mrs Jones and the Teaching Assistants have engaged in a number of CPD training activities including Dyslexia training, Mental and Emotional Health and Well-being, Attachment Awareness, Thrive training, Speech and Language Development.

Intervention programmes and support are provided individually and in small groups to develop spelling, handwriting, reading and numeracy strategies; to increase resilience and manage anxiety. We are now able to ask for specific support for children with additional needs such as dyslexia from Powys' newly appointed specialist teachers.

Marta Kozuchowska, our Polish TA, spends time with our EAL pupils to develop their strategies for learning in both English and their first language and to mentor them as they progress from KS3 to KS4. We are looking at effectively using 'Giglets' as a reading resource for children with EAL.

The ASD Awareness training is due to be completed with new members of teaching staff and the new year 7 pupils in the near future, ensuring that we maintain our ASD Quality Award and continue to be recognised as an ASD aware school.

Person-Centred Practices are now embedded throughout the review processes in DLS. This is another step towards the transition to the new Additional Learning Needs Act (2018), which will be implemented over three years from September 2021.

Within this department a high standard of behaviour and a calm friendly atmosphere is expected. Under normal circumstances, a small number of pupils from each year group spend their free time playing games, relaxing and completing homework in a nurturing space.

Effective transition plans are put into place from Year 5/6 and continue to develop through person-centred practice throughout high school, with gradual transition through each key stage and on to further training or Year 12/13.

Close relationships continue to be built and maintained with outside agencies such as Sensory Services, Youth Intervention Service, Young Carers and the School Nurse, all

welcomed into the department to meet regularly with pupils to strengthen resilience and improve outcomes.

Language Category

English Medium.

Welsh Language

We deliver Welsh Second Language only in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Welsh First Language is not offered in the curriculum.

Healthy Eating and Drinking

Powys Catering provides food and drink during lunch. The menu on offer complies in full with the Healthy Eating in Schools (Wales) Measures 2009 and the Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional standards and requirements) (Wales) Regulations 2003. The identity of those students on free school meals is protected by the biometric system.

Toilet Facilities

Welshpool High School has toilet facilities in the following areas:

Girls' Gymnasium – 10 toilets

Boys' Gymnasium – 10 toilets

Science downstairs – 1 male and 1 female staff toilet

Mathematics department – 1 toilet + 1 toilet in Head of Lower School's office

Drama/Art departments – 2 toilets

English department – 3 toilets for girls, 2 for boys and 1 for staff

Humanities department – 4 for girls, 2 for boys and 2 for staff, plus 1 disabled toilet

Department for Learning Support – 1 toilet used for staff and disabled

Theatre – 2 toilets and a disabled toilet

Reception – 1 toilet

Technology department – 1 staff toilet

6th Form Block/Business Partnership Centre – 1 staff toilet

Outside canteen area – 3 female staff toilets; 1 male toilet; 1 disabled toilet

Medical room – 1 toilet

Headteacher's office – 1 toilet

All toilets, sinks, taps and doors are cleaned Monday to Friday by trained staff.